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1.15 " to 1.45 " "	" " " " " "
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CORRESPONDENCE.
WAR TAXES IN HONGKONG.
[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"]

Sir,—The topic which is, perhaps, at the present time of the most absorbing interest to Hongkong residents is the question of the method by which money shall be raised for the purpose of increasing the contributions of this Government towards the War Fund. Much has been written and said on the subject, and many suggestions have been made, some of which are considered to be exceedingly good. But the only method which has, so far, met with the approval of the Government is that of adding 7 per cent to the present rates of 13 per cent, and providing that this addition shall be paid by the occupier of a tenement, and not by the owner (unless, of course, he is himself both owner and occupier).

A further suggestion which appears to me, and to numbers of my friends, to be a better one than any of those yet made is that a tax should be levied on every person leaving the Colony, by rail or steamer, and on all cargoes imported into, or exported out of, Hongkong. The tax need be so small that individuals would hardly feel it, and yet the total would amount to a very much larger sum than the total of 7 per cent on the present rates. Moreover, in this way every single person resident in the Colony, whether a householder or not, would be affected, for provision could be made that the consumers of goods imported, as also those exported, paid the additional tax, in the collection of which no difficulty or expense whatsoever ought to be experienced.

My suggestion is that each first or second class passenger ticket from Hongkong, to any place except Canton, Macao, or other places in the near neighbourhood, should bear on it a 5¢ stamp (that amount, of course, being added to the cost of the ticket), and a 50 cent stamp on any other class of passenger ticket; while, as regards cargo, a 50 cent stamp should be levied on each 50 cent stamp on a first-class passenger, 25 cents for a second, and 10 cents for any other class.

With regard to cargoes exported or imported, a tax on these might be levied at the rate of 5 cents a ton, a stamp to this amount being affixed to all Bills of Lading before such are signed, or endorsed, by the shipowners. It being now necessary that complete manifests of all incoming and outgoing ships shall be furnished to the Harbour Office, it would be impossible to evade payment of the tax. And, as I have said, the amount I suggest is so small that neither would the shipowners nor consumers feel it to be any appreciable extent.

In addition to these taxes, I suggest that there should also be levied a tax of five cents per ton on each merchant vessel entering the Harbour. Some years ago, I believe a similar tax (though then of 2 cent per ton) was levied for the purpose of raising funds for the building of a breakwater or typhoon refuge, which has long ago been completed. No objections were then made to that tax being levied for such special purpose, and none, I feel sure, would now be made to its being levied for a purpose far more important. In this way, too, shipowners, who are actually benefitting by the vastly enhanced freights would be made to contribute more than they are now contributing.

Further revenue for this special purpose might be collected by the Harbour Office from all junks entering or clearing, a charge being made of one cent per piece on all cargo carried in those junks. Although I doubt whether any serious objections will be raised to the method now proposed to be adopted by the Government, it seems to me to be somewhat unfair that those who can probably best afford additional taxation, the landlords—should, or should be enabled to, suffer no extra expense at all. It has been suggested to me that the additional 7 per cent on the rates should be made payable by both owner and occupier. Another method would be to add on to the Crown the rateable value of a tenement erected on Crown land, and occupied.

Or, if it is considered that the amounts to be raised by taxation of this kind should not exceed, altogether, 7 per cent on the rateable value of a tenement, then I suggest that the owner should be made to pay half that amount by his rates. Thus, a person who is both owner and occupier of a house pays the full sum of 7 per cent, while in other cases that sum is equally divided between the owner and occupier.—Yours faithfully,

W. A. DOWLEY.

SHORTHAND EXAMINATION RESULTS AT THE ITALIAN CONVENT.

Examinations have recently been held at the Italian Convent, Hongkong, in connection with the School's Shorthand Classes. As usual, these examinations were conducted by a local Committee under regulations prescribed by Pittman's Phonetic Institute. The papers, collected and sealed by the Examiners, immediately after the examinations, were forwarded to Bath for correction. The results have now arrived and are as follows:—
Full Certificate—Dorothea Razavet.
Speed (50 words)—Dorothea Bishop and Beatrice Kinross.
Theory—Bertha Bishop, Phyllis d'Almada, Castro, Ada Dickson, Janet Hill, Lottie Knight, Maria Monteiro, Margaret Neves, Lindamira Nunes, Isabel Santos and Annie Silva.
Elementary—Alice Danenberg, Hannah Kerr, Agnes Marshall, Mabel Musso, Violet Rawes, Lottie Scott and E. Silva.
We regret to state that Miss Ada Dickson died before the results reached Hongkong.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

INCREASE IN RATES.

STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held yesterday at the Council Chamber.
The following were present:—
His Excellency the Governor, Sir FRANCIS HENRY MAY, K.C.M.G.
His Excellency Major-General F. VESTRIS (General Officer Commanding Hong Kong).
Hon. Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. Mr. E. D. C. WOLFE (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. Mr. J. H. KEMP (Attorney-General).
Hon. Mr. E. R. HALIFAX (Secretary for Chinese Affairs).
Hon. Mr. W. CHATRAM, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).
Hon. Mr. C. MOL. MESSER (Captain Superintendent of Police).
Hon. Mr. LAU CHU PAK.
Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.
Hon. Mr. R. G. SHEWAN.
Hon. Mr. C. E. ANTON.
Mr. J. A. E. BULLOCK (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.
The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.
The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Finance Minutes 12 to 14, and Finance Committee.
The Colonial Treasurer seconded, and this was agreed to.

NEW MEMBER.
The Hon. Mr. R. G. SHEWAN took the oath on becoming a member of Council during the absence on leave of the Hon. Mr. E. Shelton.

PAPERS.
By command of H.E. the Governor, the Colonial Secretary laid on the table the following papers:—Report of the Land Officer for 1916; report on the Blue Book for 1916; report on the Blue Book for 1916; report of the Harbour Master for the year 1916.
The Colonial Secretary also laid on the table report on the searching of passengers on arrival at and departure from Hongkong, and correspondence between the Military Service Commission and H.E. the Governor, and the list of men who have left Hongkong for active service.

MAN POWER.
His Excellency—With reference to the report of the Military Service Commission, in connection with which I fully recognise the excellent services which have been rendered by the Commissioners, I desire to call attention to the passage which reads:—"Furthermore, it has been a matter of surprise to the Commission to learn, what the enquiry remains doubtful in some minds whether doubt probably, in part, explains the number who have abstained from applying." I am surprised myself to learn that from the first there has existed any doubt on that subject. I should have thought that a perusal of the papers would have brought home to everybody that men are wanted, and still more men. Robertson recently, General Sir William Robertson announced that he requires half a million recruits by July, and that shows conclusively that men are required. As regards our local needs here, I am able to say that at present there is no immediate prospect of a further reduction in the garrison being made, and, therefore, no obstacle will be placed by the military authorities to the departure of men who desire to still offer their services to His Majesty's army.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE.
The Colonial Secretary moved the first reading of a Bill intituled, "An Ordinance to authorize the appropriation of a supplementary sum of two hundred and ninety-one thousand two hundred and seventy-three dollars and ninety-seven cents to defray the charges of the year 1916."
The Colonial Treasurer seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

ENEMY TRADING.
The Attorney-General moved the first reading of a Bill intituled, "An Ordinance to amend the law relating to trading with the enemy and the export of prohibited goods."
The Colonial Secretary seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

The objects and reasons state that the object of this Bill is to introduce here the provisions of sections 1 and 2 of the Trading with the Enemy and Export of Prohibited Goods Act, 1916, 6 and 7 Geo. 5, c. 52. Section 3 of that Act is not required here in view of the provisions of the Importation and Exportation Ordinance, 1900, Ordinance No. 32 of 1915.

NORTH BORNEO EXTRADITION.
The Attorney-General moved the first reading of a Bill intituled, "An Ordinance to repeal the North Borneo Extradition Ordinance, 1896."
The Colonial Secretary seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

The objects and reasons state—The Straits Settlements and Protected States Fugitive Offenders Order in Council, 1916, which was made by virtue of the provisions of the Fugitive Offenders (Protected States) Act, 1915, provides that the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881, is to apply as if the State of North Borneo were a British possession. This Order in Council, which was published in the Hongkong Gazette of the 15th December, 1916, was brought into force on the 1st February, 1917, by the necessary notification under Article 1. This notification was published in the Hongkong Gazette of the 27th April, 1917. In consequence of the above legislation the North Borneo Extradition Ordinance, 1896, Ordinance No. 1 of 1896 of the Ordinances of Hongkong, is no longer necessary, and this Bill accordingly repeals it.

HONGKONG'S WAR LOAN.
The Attorney-General moved the first reading of a Bill intituled, "An Ordinance to amend further the War Loan Ordinance, 1915."
The Colonial Secretary seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

The objects and reasons state—It has been pointed out by the Crown Agents that the War Loan Ordinance, 1915, makes all interest bonds from the date of the drawing. The effect of this would be that a bondholder might not be principal and interest amount to a certain loss. It has been decided to provide that at least fifteen days' notice of the numbers drawn shall be given before the date on which the interest ceases to run.
The Bill also provides for the mode of drawing in more detail than the principal Ordinance. It was originally intended that these details should be directed by the Governor under section 11 of the principal Ordinance, but in this Bill the provisions are based on the model Ordinance which is used in the case of loans contracted with the Crown Agents.
The Bill also corrects a discrepancy between the principal Ordinance and the prospectus of the loan as to the date of redemption for bonds not previously redeemed by drawing or purchase. The date adopted in the bill is the 1st November, 1928, which was the date specified in the prospectus.

WAR FINANCE.
The Attorney-General moved the first reading of a Bill intituled, "An Ordinance to provide for a temporary increase in the rates for the special purpose of increasing the contribution of the Colony to His Majesty's Government towards the expenses of the present war."
The Colonial Secretary seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.
The objects and reasons state—The object of this bill is to impose a special war rate of 7 per cent, in addition to the ordinary rates, for the purpose of providing an additional contribution to be paid by the Colony to His Majesty's Government towards the expenses of the war. The whole of the revenue collected by means of this rate will be so paid.
The outlying villages are excluded from the scheme.

His Excellency—At the meeting of this Council held on the 22nd of February last, I said that I hoped very shortly to submit definite proposals to you on the subject of increasing taxation for the purpose of contributing still further to the Imperial War Funds. I had in my mind the imposition of an Income Tax, but after spending considerable time in studying that project, I found that the difficulties of imposing such a tax in the Colony are, for the present at any rate, insuperable. We are, in a word, too close, both geographically and commercially, to the Canton Province. On the 29th March I mentioned the report in the Press of a proposed offer by the Chinese community of a voluntary gift of £1,000,000 to the Imperial War Chest. Though most anxious to give effect to this offer, our Chinese friends found the difficulties of self-assessment so great that they were forced to appeal to me for help and guidance in the matter. I had myself been at pains to devise a method of taxing the non-Chinese portion of the community by a special increase of the Chinese gift. We found such a scheme to be full of difficulties, and in the result I had to confess myself beaten in both fields. I could not devise a scheme of self-assessment for the Chinese, nor a satisfactory one for a discriminating increase in the rates. The result is that the Government has been forced to adopt rates embodied in the Bill before you. In that Bill we have eliminated from the community. My objection all along to that it involves taxation of many who have escaped taxation. A scheme of income tax having failed, I can only say that this Bill is the best substitute the Government has been able to devise. In order to protect the occupiers from increases of rent out of proportion to the Bill in Committee providing that landlords shall give particulars of increases in rents, and the reason therefor, made since the 1st of May, and empowering the Government to review and vary these increases or other increases brought to its notice by, or on behalf of, occupiers.

His Excellency—Council stands adjourned until next Thursday.
FINANCE COMMITTEE.
A meeting of the Finance Committee followed, the Colonial Secretary presiding.
REARRANGEMENT OF MOORINGS.
The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of four thousand six hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$4,625.00) in aid of the Vote 6—Harbour Master's Department, Special Expenditure, Acquisition and rearrangement of Moorings in Victoria Harbour.

The Chairman—This amount is for two spare buoys in connection with the harbour moorings, one "A" class buoy and one "C" class buoy. We have got no spare ones at present, and occasionally the buoys have to be taken up.
Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Is this in excess of the amount estimated, or not?
The Chairman—It was not estimated for at all.
Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—There was an estimate originally when the scheme was started.
The Chairman—That was all in last year, I think.
The Colonial Treasurer—The original amount was merely for buying up the existing buoys. This proposal now is to allow them to have one or two spare buoys. It is an additional amount.
The vote was agreed to.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.
The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of five hundred and sixty dollars (\$560) in aid of the vote Kowloon-Canton Railway, Working Expenses, Other Charges, Painting Contract, Carriages.
(Continued at foot of next column.)

SEARCHING OF PASSENGERS.
REPORT ON COMPLAINTS OF ABUSES.

Arising out of certain statements made at the Legislative Council meeting of October 31st, 1916, relative to the searching of passengers on arrival at, and departure from, Hongkong, the matter, at the direction of the Governor, was investigated by the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, the C.S.P., and the Superintendent of Imports and Exports. The report made by them was laid on the table at the meeting of the Legislative Council yesterday. It was as follows:—
The existence to any great extent of abuses connected with the searching of passengers is not open to precise proof. The Captain Superintendent of Police points out that, in view of the small number of complaints made to his department either directly or through the European detectives on this duty, the trouble is, perhaps exaggerated. It is agreed, however, that it is not possible to dismiss the complaints received as without foundation. If the theory is correct that in many cases individuals pay to save themselves time and trouble, it is not unnatural that they should be shy of reporting to the Police; or that a general complaint based on such circumstances should be put forward indirectly—for instance through the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, as in these papers.
It is clear that there is plenty of opening for abuse. The lack of sufficient European supervision of the searchers, the want of proper searching sheds (some in the open and on wet ground), the readiness of passengers to pay rather than undergo the discomforts of search and delay, even if carrying nothing contraband, the methods of the Shipping Companies or their comrade staffs in passing as passengers' luggage what should rank as cargo, and (though this point perhaps exceeds the terms of reference which are concerned with passengers' baggage only) in allowing a margin over amounts appearing on manifests—a practice which the close regulation of the last few years has shown to be very prevalent and to occasion no objection from the Customs: are all matters which again make it not improbable that the complaint has foundation.
We are agreed that the complete remedy is to be looked for in a very exact control of the Asiatic searchers, such as can be found only in sufficient and effective European supervision.

HONGKONG'S FINANCES.
REPORT FOR 1916.
The report on the finances of Hongkong for the year 1916 states that the total revenue for the year amounted to \$13,833,397, being \$2,424,377 in excess of the estimate and \$2,047,280 more than the revenue in 1915. Compared with that year there were increases under all the heads except Light Dues. The Railway was an additional disappointment in comparison with the estimate for the year itself.
The principal sub-heads showing real increases over the estimate are as follows:—
(a) Sunday Cargo Working Permits \$ 51,000
(b) Liquor Duties 183,000
(c) Opium Monopoly 1,500,000
(d) Stamp Duties 66,000
(e) Land Sales 200,000
(f) Tobacco Duties 211,180
The increases are due under (a) to the advantage of shipping, (b) to increase in rate of duty, (c) to rise in sale price of opium, (d) to fewer applications, (e) to the default of the late Contractor who was largely in arrears with his payments owing to disturbances in Kwangtung.
The principal decreases were:—
(a) Light Dues \$24,600
(b) Liquor Licences 10,000
(c) Railway 68,000
(d) Conservancy Contracts 35,000
Of these, (a) was due to the shortage of shipping, (b) to fewer applications, (c) to disturbances in Kwangtung, and (d) to the default of the late Contractor who was largely in arrears with his payments owing to disturbances in Kwangtung.
The total expenditure brought to account amounted to \$11,079,915, being \$202,250 less than the estimate, and \$1,089,353 less than the expenditure in 1915. Compared with the estimates there are decreases under 21 heads as against 4 heads where there were increases. The excess amounting to \$41,695 under Harbour Department was on account of purchase of Buys postponed from 1915, and that of \$203,205 under Miscellaneous Services to loss on exchange and transport of prisoners to Australia. Military expenditure was larger by \$73,375, account of the excess revenue in 1915, and Public Works Recurrent accounted for an extra sum of \$44,472, chiefly arising from typhoon and storm damages and repairs to the dredger St. Enoch.
Decreases in pensions (\$52,729), public Debt (\$179,820), and in nearly all departments were chiefly due to the rising exchange, while the one on account of Railway (Construction Expenses \$187,479) was chiefly due to postponement of works to 1917. The revenue for the year exceeded the expenditure by a sum of \$2,753,482, with the result that the debit balance of \$402,697 at the end of 1915 became a surplus of \$2,350,785 at the end of the year.

The Chairman—These sums are for painting carriages. The original paint used has been found to be unsatisfactory, and a more lasting varnish is required for the carriages. This sum is for painting another five carriages.
The vote was agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS.
The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of four hundred dollars (\$400) in aid of the vote Miscellaneous Services, War Expenditure, Other items of Expenditure.
The Chairman—This vote is in connection with the Military Service Commission. It includes \$300 for myself as Secretary, and \$100 for clerical assistance.
The vote was agreed to.

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THE WAR.

BRITISH TRANSPORT TORPEDOED.

HEAVY CASUALTIES.

FRANCE AND THE NEW RUSSIA.

AUSTRIAN PEACE BAIT.

CALM IN THE WEST.

AIR RAID ON ENGLAND.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BIG FRENCH CAPTURES.

8,600 UNWOUNDED GERMANS.

PARIS, May 24th. A communiqué says:—A German attack on the Vaucouleurs plateau last evening was driven back with serious losses. The prisoners we took here on the 22nd belong to six Regiments of four different Divisions. We have prisoners 8,600 unwounded Germans since May 1st, between Soissons and Aubert.

EARLIER CABLES.

BRITISH FRONT.

MUTUAL BOMBARDMENT.

LONDON, May 23rd. Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The Germans last night heavily bombarded the neighbourhood of Bullecourt. We replied vigorously. We successfully raided to the south-east of Gavrelle, and took prisoners during patrol encounters to the north of Arras.

FRENCH CARRY TRENCHES.

PARIS, May 23rd. A communiqué states:—Last evening we made a lively attack at three points on the front from Vaucouleurs to the California plateau, with good results. We continued to capture the last observation points dominating the Ailette Valley and greatly extended our positions on the northern slopes. We carried three lines of trenches in the region to the east of Chevreux at night.

Our fire smashed a counter-attack on our new positions on the California plateau, with heavy enemy losses. We took 350 prisoners, including eleven officers.

CALM.

LONDON, May 23rd. Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—There has been nothing of special interest to-day. There was less aerial activity than yesterday, owing to unfavourable weather.

FRENCH CAPTURES.

PARIS, May 23rd. A communiqué states:—At Chemin des Dames the enemy bombarded the positions we occupy in the region of the Vaucouleurs and the California plateau. Over 400 prisoners were captured yesterday. In Champagne, the enemy artillery fire was brisk in the region to the south of Moronvillers. Our fire broke down an attack on Highmont.

PATROL ENCOUNTERS.

LONDON, May 24th. Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—There have been patrol encounters to the east of Leveguier during the night. We have made a few prisoners.

Italian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GREAT ITALIAN OFFENSIVE.

OVER 9,000 PRISONERS IN A DAY.

Rome, May 24th. An Italian official message says:—On the Carso yesterday, after ten hours' violent bombardment, we assaulted and broke through the enemy's lines from Ostagnazzo to the sea. While we were heavily engaging the enemy left, our troops, after carrying enemy trenches at the centre and right, occupied a part of the area southward of the Castagnavizza and Bosconialto road, and passed Bosconialto.

They captured Jaminiano and five strongly fortified heights with a sudden onslaught which surprised and nonplussed the enemy, who counter-attacked in the evening. We severely repulsed them. We prisoners over 9,000 yesterday, including 300 officers.

Our aeroplanes and seaplanes participated in the battle, and dropped tons of bombs on the enemy lines, and machine-gunned troops. All returned safely.

Ten British batteries largely contributed to the bombardment. We repulsed heavy attacks at Gorizia, and captured a strong point on the north-west slopes of San Marco. We considerably progressed at Monte Santo and Vozza after severe fighting.

SEVERE FIGHTING.

Rome, May 23rd. An official message states:—There was very severe fighting on Monday night in the Travinolo Valley. The enemy penetrated our positions at Piccolo and Briccon, but our supports recaptured the whole position after violent fighting.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH TRANSPORT TORPEDOED.

HEAVY CASUALTIES.

LONDON, May 24th. The Admiralty announced that the British transport *Transylvania* was torpedoed in the Mediterranean on the 4th inst. The following lives were lost:—Twenty-nine officers, 374 other ranks, the Captain, one officer, and nine of the crew.

THE ADRIATIC ENGAGEMENT.

SURVIVORS STATEMENTS.

PARIS, May 25th. The survivors of the *Daufre*, which was sunk in the Adriatic engagement, state that the British, French and Italian warships showed great skill and promptitude in meeting the Austrian vessels attacked. The French destroyer *Besson* registered several successful shots at a big enemy cruiser, on which a large fire was seen to break out.

EARLIER CABLES.

FRENCH STEAMER TORPEDOED.

FORTY-FIVE DROWNED.

PARIS, May 24th. An official message says that the steamer *Sentoy*, with 31 crew and 344 passengers, was torpedoed whilst proceeding to Salonika from Marseilles. Forty-five perished, including the commander. A French fishing boat with a crew of 14 fought and drove off a German submarine in the Bay of Biscay.

BRITISH SHIPPING.

A WEEK'S SUBMARINING.

LONDON, May 23rd. The Admiralty announces that the arrivals of ships during the week numbered 2,664 and the sailings 2,759. Eighteen vessels of over 1,600 tons and nine under 1,600 tons were sunk. Nine were unsuccessfully attacked, and three fishing vessels were sunk.

ITALIAN FIGURES.

Merchantmen to the number of 950 entered Italian ports during the week ended May 20th, while 497 left. No steamers were sunk, but one was shelled and damaged.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

INDIAN AND CEYLON TEA.

LONDON, May 25th. In the House of Commons, Sir J. D. Ross suggested that Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Long might obtain the prohibition of the import of Java tea to Australia in favour of Indian and Ceylon tea. Mr. Chamberlain replied that the matter was entirely within the discretion of the Commonwealth Government. If that Government saw fit to give advantage to Indian over foreign tea, needless to say it would be welcome, but he did not think he could usefully and properly act regarding that particular industry.

MEAT PRICES TO BE CONTROLLED.

LONDON, May 25th. In the House of Commons, Mr. Bostwick stated that the retail prices of meat would shortly be controlled.

EARLIER CABLES.

WOULD-BE SLACKERS.

WHAT CANADA IS DOING.

OTTAWA, May 23rd. The Government has fixed twenty years' service as the lowest age to which compulsory service will be applicable. By arrangement with the United States, would-be slackers trying to leave their country will be stopped at the international boundary.

LATEST CABLES.

EMPIRE PRODUCERS.

SUBMARINISM "NOT YET IN HAND."

SPEECH BY SIR EDWARD CARSON.

LONDON, May 24th. Sir Edward Carson was the guest at a luncheon held in connection with the British Empire Producers' Organisation.

Sir Charles Beresford presided, and read the following telegram from Premier Hughes:

"The resolutions of the Imperial War Conference will draw more closely together the bounds of Empire. The victory of the National Government of Australia has shown Australia's attitude towards the Empire. I wish the Producers' Organisation success."

Sir Charles Beresford said that only those who, before the war, pointed out the danger of starvation had a right to criticise the Admiralty now. He declared that the submarine menace was not yet in hand, nothing but over-water craft in large numbers could beat the submarine in blue water.

Sir Edward Carson, responding to the toast of his health, said it was difficult to find time beforehand to compose a speech, because he was giving six hours' daily to the Irish question, besides doing duty at the Admiralty. This left one somewhat pressed, and depressed.

After mentioning that the Producers' Organisation represented £700,000,000 capital, spread over the Empire, he said that some years ago his son, who was now commanding a submarine, desired to join a navy class at school. He tried to persuade him it was better to make money as a lawyer (laughter), but his son replied: "You don't seem to realize the importance of the fact that the navy is the great connecting link between the mother country and the Colonies." "I told him that if he put things on such a high plane I had nothing more to say. Only yesterday, as I first saw Lord, I had to read an account of an attempt by our own destroyers to sink his submarine. (Laughter.)"

The War was being fought in vain if the old state of affairs did not end. Without new methods the victories of our armies and fleet would be in vain. God help us if we go back to the old Party ideals. When he looked back at Imperial Preference, it seemed to him that it was preference for the German Empire. Also the Most Favoured Nation Clause, which sounded so well, really meant a combination of our enemies to our advantage. Such catchwords must be got rid of. No war of this magnitude could be waged without bringing vast revolutions.

The Russian revolution was because war brought home to the people that the real power must be in the people who had to fight. What might replace the old regime was still in the lap of the gods. However, in some respects, we might regret it. He believed it was a necessary revolution. Let them not imagine there was no revolution going on in this country and Empire. True, his Majesty was never more sure and securely fixed on his throne than at present. (Cheers.) Look at the almost automatic innovation of the Imperial War Cabinet. He found that the connecting link which was binding the Dominions to the mother country was that we had exactly the same ideals of liberty and progress.

People, he said, had talked wildly of Imperial Federation, not knowing what it meant. There could be no Imperial Federation if it were meant that all the various units that made the Empire did not mind how loose was the system binding the Empire so long as it was the best working system. They must not try to tighten it artificially, but let it work its own way. A meeting of the Council of Empire, a Cabinet, from year to year to discuss Empire executive matters, was the nearest approach at the moment we could get to the ideals at which we were aiming.

There was, he added, a revolution in the Empire at home. The Franchise Bill was its great revolution. What had brought that about? The war and conscription. Millions of men were going over the parapet daily to face the German guns. They were the men who were preserving their property for those at home. (Cheers.) They could not ask them to do all that without giving them a voice in the Government of the country. "Thank God we have not required bloodshed and anarchy to do these things." Labour would never again be satisfied, nor ought to be satisfied, to be in the same condition as it was before the war.

The labour in numbers which had been sent out was laying the foundations of our future progress, was maintaining our present liberties, and must have, he would not call it reward, but it's fair share in the body politic. They had to prove to Labour that if its true interests were to expand and progress, that could only be done on a sound solvent basis by the organisation of the united forces of Empire. "Let us not talk to them too much about Imperialism," continued the speaker. "To some it rather idealises domination, to others it means exploitation of the people for the benefit of the few of capitalists. You must get rid of that out of your minds; you must rather teach them of Empire Union and greatness, in which each unit is a help and strength to the other units. You must teach them that the patriotism inherent in them is best for their material progress. Just as by building up business they got a freer flow for their energies and greater resources for higher wages, so by the expansion of Empire, Empire, you will bring home to them that we have great material which can place them on a sure and better foundation of good terms and happiness at home than has ever fallen to the lot of the proletariat of any other race." (Cheers.)

EARLIER CABLES.

GENERAL SMUTS ON SOUTH AFRICA.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE.

LONDON, May 25th.

A distinguished company, including Lord Milner, General Sir William Robertson and other notables formerly and at present associated with South Africa, gubernatorially, financially and otherwise, were present at a dinner given at the Savoy Hotel in honour of General Smuts. Lord Selbourne, ex-High Commissioner for South Africa, presided.

General Smuts, replying to the toast of his health, after eloquent references to the fascinations of South Africa and the opportunities she offered, in common with other countries, for settlement after the war, to which task she should address herself, referred to the desire noticeable in some sections of South Africa to keep the country out of the stream of the general tendency towards a broad-minded development of nationality.

General Smuts said that their eyes had been opened in East Africa to the enormous military material there. "We are all aware of the great German plan, still in many German minds, of creating a great Central African Empire, which would not only embrace the Cameroons and improve commerce with East Africa, but also the Portuguese colonies and the Congo, an enormous area which would have a large population and be one of the most valuable parts of the world, wherein it would be possible to train the world's best troops. This war had been an eye-opener to him, and the possibility of training black armies would present a problem of great importance, not only to the Empire but to civilisation. He suggested that one remedy to prevent the menace to South and Central Africa would be to forbid the military training of natives in any peace settlement proposals.

We were now in the happy position of having land communications from Egypt to the Cape without menace, and this position would be satisfactorily dealt with after the war. We were in the position of having no danger on the Atlantic or Indian seaboard to our most essential sea communications as an Empire. What would happen to these communications after the settlement? None knew, but he hoped that it would be borne in mind that East Africa not only gave us through land communications from one end of the continent to the other, but also secured sea routes round the Cape and Red Sea. Unlike the other Dominions, the future of South Africa was not assured. They had tremendous problems to contend with, and he asked his hearers in the centre of the Empire to remember that South Africa was dealing with enormous problems and that the people at home and the people in South Africa did not always see eye to eye.

LATEST CABLES.

General Smuts contended that a policy of national unity was entirely consistent with the preservation of traditions and the best interests of the land, and of the two white races, which would build up a more powerful and stronger race than if they remained apart. The policy of keeping the "purity of the two races distinct" was an absurd nonsense. Turning to the native problem, General Smuts said it must be realised that South Africa was not yet a white man's country. The native question was a more difficult question than it had been in America, owing to the preponderance of blacks over whites. They were striving to solve the problem. The main idea was to introduce a system of self-government for the native races, running on parallel lines and similar in principle to the appropriate native thoughts and instincts. The two forms of self-government could be managed without any undesirable comingling of the races. They were going to make an attempt with that experiment. It might take a century to achieve good results, but it was the best policy they could initiate to prevent the mixture of white and black blood; that was a South African axiom.

EARLIER CABLES.

EMPIRE DAY.

GOOD WISHES FROM FRANCE.

LONDON, May 23rd.

According to the Press Bureau, President Poincaré telegraphed to His Majesty the King on the occasion of Empire Day, renewing the warm wishes which the French people share with him for the prosperity of the United Kingdom and India, whose sons are united with the children of France, her Colonies and her Protectorates in valiantly fighting for a most noble cause.

His Majesty, replying, reciprocates the cordial wishes and expresses his and his people's deep appreciation. His Majesty adds:—"My Empire, in union with France, her Colonies and Protectorates, will continue the struggle for liberty and right until they and their gallant Allies have gained the final victory."

HOUSE OF LORDS REFORMATION.

LONDON, May 24th.

The reform of the House of Lords is foreshadowed in a statement made by Mr. Walter Long in the House of Commons last night. He announced that the Government was so impressed by the results of the Speaker's Electoral College that it had decided to establish, as soon as possible, a conference to discuss and report upon the Second Chamber.

FRENCH MISSION RETURNS.

LONDON, May 23rd.

M. Viviani and Marshal Joffre have arrived at Brest from America.

ANNEXATION.

STATEMENTS IN THE FRENCH CHAMBER.

PARIS, May 24th.

The Chamber has re-assembled, and for the first time since the 10th of May, M. Ribot, returning to those relating to the recent offensive, said that excessive hopes had been entertained, and mistakes made, but there was no reason to minimise or to exaggerate the results. Never had the Anglo-French troops so splendidly checked the German masses. The Government had taken measures, and also made changes in the high command in order to remove the latter of everything not connected with the actual operations.

The meeting of the Chamber, after seven weeks, was chiefly remarkable for a speech by the Premier, dealing largely with the Russian crisis. There was a general feeling, when M. Ribot had finished, that his words of warm encouragement and sympathy will have a splendid effect on Russia.

M. Ribot began by saying that the Government had been asked by the Russian Government to enter into conversations with the Russian Government, and acknowledging that it was the splendid effort of the French people that drew the mass of the enemy to the West, which facilitated the reconstitution of the Russian forces.

M. Ribot, after referring to the Russian declarations that the war in defence of liberty would be prosecuted vigorously, said:—"We shall continue the struggle, not in a spirit of conquest, and annexation, but in order to get back our own liberty, not even that of our enemies, because we recognise the liberty of all people. Let the Russians but do their duty, and we shall have no more fear of enemies who will ask for peace, not hypocritically as to-day, but under conditions worthy of France. And if they do not ask for peace, then we shall be in a position to impose it upon them." (Cheers.)

M. Ribot asked for a postponement of twelve interpellations relating to the his declaration with the Army. Consequence of interpellations regarding Russia, expressing confidence that Russia would soon come to the help of the Allies. He promised an early debate on the submarine and food question.

Continuing, M. Ribot said:—"We shall go hand in hand with Russia, who remains faithful. With her, they will never be any question of a separate peace. The Russian Minister himself has treated regarding the formula of no annexations and no indemnities, while Germany all the time intends to keep the Provinces she formerly took from us." (Cheers.) We shall not demand annexation, but restitution, based on the right of justice. Peace without indemnities. It is not a question of a war indemnity as a penalty. (Cheers greeted this observation, especially from the Socialist benches.) It will be reparation and justice, and the whole world will sit in judgment.

RUSSIAN ASSURANCES.

PARIS, May 24th.

M. Terestchenko's telegram, mentioned by M. Ribot, added that Russia considered this war necessary for the defence of the liberty of nations. Any other interpretation would destroy her enthusiasm and could not be accepted. The Russian Government was conscious of its duty, and would urgently proceed with the reconstitution of its combatant forces, so that the great breath of revolutionary enthusiasm shall inspire the armies to accomplish the task in co-operation with their valiant brother armies.

M. Ribot, replying, said now that Russia is mistress of her destinies, France continues the struggle with the sentiment of increased solidarity and close fraternity with Russia. The two peoples will find in the same ideal the strength to secure the triumph of the sacred cause of human justice and independence.

AMERICA AT WAR.

MEDICAL UNIT RECEIVED BY THE KING.

LONDON, May 23rd.

His Majesty the King received the members of the American medical unit at Buckingham Palace. In welcoming them His Majesty said:—"It is with the utmost pleasure and satisfaction that we greet the first American detachment since the great Republic resolved to join in the world struggle for the ideals of civilisation. We deeply appreciate the prompt and generous response to our needs. It is characteristic of the humanity and chivalry of the American nation that its first assistance is connected with healing and mercy."

FOOD PROBLEMS.

LONDON, May 24th.

The United States continues to apply most vigorous and most enterprising methods to the tackling of the food problem.

Following upon a huge scheme for employing hundreds of thousands of schoolboys in the cultivation of the soil, the Secretary for Labour announces plans for a nation-wide holiday during the harvest. As a possible solution of the labour problem on the farms, he proposes that millions of men employed in mills, mines, offices etc., be called out on a suitable day for each locality to help in gathering in the grain.

FRANCE AND AMERICA.

PARIS, May 24th.

M. Viviani declares that France can now reckon on the United States placing all its forces at the service of the right which France is defending. He says that President Wilson, replying to his appreciation of American sympathy, said:—"We are brothers in the same cause."

The *Nation* remarks that, in view of President Wilson's high conscientiousness, such words are most precious.

RUSSIA'S ARMY.

AN APPEAL BY GEN. ALEXEIEFF.

PETERSBURG, May 23rd.

The first Congress of Army and Navy officers met at the Headquarters. General Alexeieff, in opening the proceedings, said it was true that the country was endangered because the fighting ardour of the Army was diminished by dissensions and mistrust of officers. The soldiers of the Russian Army were seized with a fatal hesitancy in front of a terrible enemy who was not content with the territory he had already invaded but was stretching a greedy hand towards South Russia. He exhorted the officers, on their return to their regiments, to restore discipline and make the Army again capable of victory.

M. Kerensky has gone to inspect all the Russian fronts.

INACTION EQUIVALENT TO SEPARATE PEACE.

M. Albert Thomas, addressing delegates at Moscow, said that thousands of Anglo-French soldiers were perishing while awaiting Russian co-operation, to which they were entitled. He added that inaction at the front was equivalent to a separate peace.

AIR RAID ON ENGLAND.

EASTERN COUNTIES VISITED.

LONDON, May 23rd.

An official message says:—Four or five aeroplanes approached the coast of East Anglia, before midnight. A thick bank of raincloud made observation difficult. Four of them penetrated the Eastern Counties, taking erratic courses, apparently being unable to locate their positions. They dropped a number of bombs in the country districts. Our aeroplanes pursued them, but the clouds enabled the raiders to escape. One man was killed in Norfolk. It is believed that the damage done is negligible.

AUSTRIA AND PEACE.

OVERTURES TO RUSSIA.

AMSTERDAM, May 23rd.

A German correspondent to the *Tyden* declares that at the recent conferences, Herr von Bethmann, Tollweg and Count Czernin discussed the Austrian Emperor's peace offer towards Russia, including the restoration of Poland, the freedom of the Dardanelles and a loan to Russia.

BELGIUM AND PEACE TALK.

THE ONLY WAY.

PARIS, May 24th.

The Belgian Minister, M. Vandervelde, interviewed by Russian journalists at Petrograd, declared that peace on the basis of the *status quo* would be contrary to the principles of liberty. The liberation of the peoples of Armenia, Trentino, and Alsace-Lorraine was not annexation, but dis-annexation. Peace was only possible when the Kaiser and the Emperor Charles retired into private life, like the Tsar.

POLITICAL CRISIS IN AUSTRIA.

CABINET RESIGNS EN BLOC.

AMSTERDAM, May 24th.

It is officially announced from Budapest that the Emperor refused his assent to the Government's franchise proposals. Count Tisza has tendered his resignation and also that of the entire Cabinet. The resignations have been accepted.

SERIOUS BLOW TO GERMANISM.

LONDON, May 24th.

Count Tisza's fall is regarded as a serious blow to Germany, as Count Tisza, who has been described as "Europe's supreme reactionary," was the pillar of Germanism in Austria-Hungary. Vienna newspapers mention Count Zichy or Count Serenyi as a probable successor. It is noteworthy that Count Zichy was a confidant of the murdered Archduke Ferdinand and sympathised with the latter's policy of aggrandising the Slavs under the dual Monarchy.

FOOD RIOTS IN PORTUGAL.

LONDON, May 25th.

The *Times* correspondent at Lisbon says that 22 people were killed, 300 wounded and 300 arrested in the course of food riots.

DEALING WITH THE TURKS.

PROGRESS "NECESSARILY SLOW."

LONDON, May 23rd.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Macpherson, Financial Secretary to the War Office, stated that we were in close touch with the Turkish main Army position at Gaza, which had been extended by series of trenches and redoubts. The Turks had been re-inforced and had made good use of the natural obstacles. Their position was of great natural strength, as the left flank was protected by a broken, waterless country. In view of these conditions, our progress was necessarily slow. There had been no serious fighting since April 19th, but we had, however, continued to gain ground, and had organised and consolidated our positions.

MEATLESS WEEKS IN GERMANY.

ZURICH, May 24th.

It is officially admitted that the German meat ration is being further reduced after August 15th. It is stated that there will be meatless weeks.

RUSSIAN REPUBLIC FAVOURED.

LONDON, May 23rd.

At Moscow a Congress of Mussulman delegates from all parts of Russia passed a resolution by 446 votes to 271 in favour of a Federal Republic for Russia.

A BLESSING TO WOMEN.

Throughout the many stages of woman's life, from peevish girlhood through womanhood, motherhood, to the declining years of old age, there is no better, milder, or more effective medical companion to women-folk than Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills. They promote a healthy and regular condition, cleansing and restoring the Bowels, Liver and Kidneys to perfect working order. A few doses occasionally when well, will assure a pure and healthy system. Years ago, Pills were the medicine of the poor only. To-day the efficacy of Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills to overcome the common ailments and restore health and happiness to sick and ailing women has convinced not only the working section of the population, but the wives, daughters of the more wealthy, professional, and independent classes that Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills are a Great Female Medicine, and are absolutely indispensable to every lady's boudoir.

They are a perfect Blood Purifier and a positive and permanent Cure for Biliousness, Indigestion, Constipation, Headaches, Sallow Complexion, Liver and Kidney Troubles, Piles, Pimples, Boils and Blotches, and for Female Ailments.

DR. MORSE'S INDIAN ROOT PILLS

For Sale by WATKINS, Ltd., Wholesale and Retail Agents, and Chemists and Stores generally at 50 cents per bottle, or will be forwarded on receipt of price by THE W. H. COMSTOCK CO., Ltd., Sole Proprietors, 21, Farringdon Avenue, London, England.

20,000 DOCTORS are recommending PLASMON

ALL NOURISHMENT ARROWROOT

Because It is "of INESTIMABLE VALUE as a food for all."—Dr. Virchow, Berlin.

A truth which nobody denies

is, that the maturing of whisky by time and nature cannot be hurried. Only by years in bond can it acquire the mellowness for which

JOHNNIE WALKER

is famous.

JOHNNIE WALKER "White" Label, Over 6 years old.

JOHNNIE WALKER "Red" Label, Over 10 years old.

JOHNNIE WALKER "Black" Label, Over 12 years old.

To safeguard these ages our policy for the future is the policy of the past. First and foremost to see that the margin of stocks over sales is always large enough to maintain our unique quality.

Guaranteed same quality throughout the world.

To be obtained from the Sole Agents for China: CALDBECK, MACGREGOR & CO., Hongkong, Canton, Shanghai, Tientsin, Peking, etc.

JOHN WALKER & SONS, Ltd., Scotch Whisky Distillers, Kilmarnock, Scotland.



LIFE WITHOUT HEALTH IS A LIVING DEATH. VETARZO BLOOD AND NERVE FOOD

This remarkable compound, the latest discovery of modern times, is a potent equal in all cases of defective nerve and brain power, whether induced by worry, overwork, dissipation, or other causes. It restores vitality, improves circulation, cures nervous depression, restores energy, and builds up the system. It is a powerful tonic, and is a most effective remedy for all cases of weakness, nervousness, and general debility. It is a most valuable and reliable preparation, and is a most effective remedy for all cases of weakness, nervousness, and general debility.

WITHOUT PURE BLOOD, HEALTH IS IMPOSSIBLE. VETARZO BLOOD MEDICINE

Never before was there anything like it, nor can its marvellous properties ever be equaled. It is a most valuable and reliable preparation, and is a most effective remedy for all cases of weakness, nervousness, and general debility. It is a most valuable and reliable preparation, and is a most effective remedy for all cases of weakness, nervousness, and general debility.

JAPANESE AND AMERICAN YARNS IN HONGKONG.

Japanese cotton mills not only are commencing to dominate the Far Eastern market for ordinary counts of cotton yarn, but during the past year have developed a trade in fine-count yarns that has cut into and almost destroyed the trade of the United States and Great Britain in knitting yarns and similar finer products in this field.

For a number of years, says the U.S. Consul-General for Hongkong, Mr. George B. Anderson, American knitting yarns had possession of the Hongkong market so far as supplies for the hosiery and underwear factories were concerned, and even yet American manufacturers hold the trade for the very high-class goods; but in the more common grades of knitting yarns Japanese mills have taken the trade, and they are now furnishing the hosiery and underwear factories with cheap Chinese and Indian cotton yarns, using a comparatively small proportion of American long-staple cotton. The Japanese manufacturers turn out a fair yarn at a low price. The Japanese mills are making yarn up to a 64-count. They are able to secure the supplies of cotton from India, China, and the United States at very low rates over the lines of subsidised Japanese steamships, and can distribute their output in the same advantageous way. So long as these advantages continue they can hold their trade.

COTTON TRADE A COMMERCIAL BAROMETER.

This development of the Hongkong yarn trade in 1916 followed a similar development of the trade in 1915, during which latter year the whole of the trade in count 20 yarns and cut into the trade in Indian and British yarns otherwise. By reason of the attention paid by the Japanese mills to the still higher counts during the past year the Indian mills were enabled to sell considerably more yarn of the 20 count than the year before, though not an amount equal to their former trade. On the whole the volume of Japanese yarns coming into the market during 1916 was little, if any, greater than it was the previous year, but the returns to Japanese manufacturers were very much increased.

For a good many years the best barometer of general trade in cotton and cotton products—large cotton-piece goods, but particularly cotton yarn. While the price of raw cotton in the world's markets, naturally dependent in the first instance upon American cotton crops, is the chief factor in fixing the volume and nature of this trade, other factors, such as grain and other crops in China, and political quietness in China, and similar considerations combine to make up the year's record on which the returns depend.

Arrivals of cotton yarn, exclusive of strictly knitting yarns, during the past year in Hongkong are placed at 154,150 bales, of which 122,550 bales were Indian and the balance Japanese. Sales during the year (including sales to arrive) are placed at 167,100 bales. There is on hand at the present time in Hongkong stocks of about 24,000 bales, of which about 10,000 bales are already sold but not cleared.

Constantly enhancing prices of cotton in the United States naturally led to augmented prices for cotton yarn, and dealers and importers generally obtained more money in consequence. Political troubles in Kwangtung and Kwangsi Provinces, together with restricted credits and the difficulty of delivering goods reduced the volume of trade during much of the year, but on the other hand, Kunming through Indo-China, increased its demand abnormally and absorbed much of the Hongkong stock. Of the 133,350 bales sold and cleared, 1,225 bales were of No. 6's, 65,125 bales of No. 10's, 24,800 bales of No. 12's, 6,325 bales of No. 16's, and 28,375 of No. 20's. Of the fine counts (20's) about 56 per cent were Japanese. Knitting yarns are not included in the above figures.

THE LAST OF RASPUTIN.

Russian papers give curious details of the final fate of the body of Gregory Rasputin. It will be remembered that after the tragedy in Prince Yusupoff's house the dead impostor was flung through a hole in the ice on one of the branches of the Neva. The corpse was recovered by great difficulty at Tsarskoe Selo. It was not, however, left long in its resting place after the old regime had been uprooted. Rasputin's "spirit" had done an infinity of harm after his death, and the Provisional Government evidently feared that his body might become the centre of some mischievous cult. At any rate, they gave orders that it should be dug up and interred in a remote spot among the forests which line the highway to Viborg. Accordingly, one evening the coffin was placed upon a motor-lorry and despatched on its way. But when still three miles from the spot appointed for the secret burial the car stuck in a snow-drift, and could not be persuaded to move further. The four men who had been charged with this grim commission thereupon decided to cover the coffin with snow and leave it till the morning. They carried it some little distance from the road, and hid it, but when they returned to the car they were accosted by a party of local militia, who left their car and plunged together into the depths of the forest, and insisted on explanations. When the matter was made clear they came to the conclusion that it was best to take no chances of the body falling into unauthorised hands, and tearing down dead branches from the trees, they built an enormous bonfire, in which they consumed it to ashes.

SOUTH MANCHURIAN CONCESSIONS. HIGH COURT JUDGMENT.

In the Chancery Division recently, Mr. Justice Peckham delivered his reserved judgment in the action brought by the South Manchurian Syndicate, Ltd., of 3, London Wall-buildings, E.C., v. Henry Joseph Bush.

Plaintiffs claimed a declaration that an option given to the defendant by agreement made on December 2nd, 1908, between the plaintiffs and the defendant for the purchase of certain properties in China, as extended by an agreement made on May 18th, 1909, between the same parties, still remained in force and may be exercised by the plaintiffs up to the expiration of twelve calendar months from the date upon which the defendant should be enjoined to refrain from disposing of the said properties, or any of them, or any right of interest therein, or charging or encumbering them, so long as the option remained in force. The plaintiffs further asked for the appointment of a receiver of defendant's estate and interest in the properties.

His Lordship, giving judgment, said that certain concessions were granted to a Chinese gentleman, who transferred them to the defendant, by which the plaintiffs entered into them from him upon certain conditions. The defendant raised various objections. The first was that the concession was to be granted by the Chinese Emperor, and as the country was now under a Republican Government, this could not be obtained. In the second place, he said that the Japanese control, and the edict was therefore impossible. Thirdly, the defendant said it was in the contemplation of both parties that the agreement postulated the issue of a final edict confirming the concession. And, finally, it was argued that the concession was against the rules of perpetuities.

His Lordship said he would pass over the first and second objections. He had been asked to satisfy himself as to the application to the Foreign Office as to the status of the present Chinese Government, but he did not think that necessary, because he thought the third objection was final and sufficient. He was of opinion that the agreement postulated that the final edict could and would be obtained, and the continual attempts made by the parties to obtain that edict showed that that was so. That the parties were wrong was clear from the fact that the Government refused to grant the edict, and persisted in that course. The parties had failed to obtain a final edict, and there was no prospect of their ever obtaining it. The basis of the contract had failed. It was unnecessary under the circumstances to go into the fourth point, as to the rules of perpetuities.

His Lordship therefore gave judgment against the Company.

THE EXPORT TRADE WITH THE FAR EAST. STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In the House of Commons on April 4th, Mr. Holt complained of the adverse effect of the shortage of tonnage on the export trade with India, Burmah, and the Far East, and on the prosperity of our home industries, especially the cotton industry.

Mr. S. Samuel complained that in connection with many commodities preference was being given to foreign competitors. The Government was helping the Japanese to capture Indian and Chinese trade.

Sir L. C. Money replied that since the Shipping Controller had been in office 1,000 more vessels had either been ordered or being brought under requisition. Included in this great number of vessels were over 800 cargo liners, trading on well-established routes. One of the consequences which had to be faced was that the shipping facilities of our own Dominions when they happened to be distant markets. The representatives of the Dominions who were now in this country had, however, accepted the situation, and that spirit of patriotism and self-sacrifice which had been displayed by the Dominions throughout the war. (Cheers.) He could assure the House that a total prohibition of cotton imports was not contemplated. The Department were endeavouring to arrange a regular service of steamers, the capacity of which would be made known quite frankly to those interested in the trade, so that they could enter into commitments accordingly. The Department hoped effectively to arrange an order of priority of imports, so that whatever cargoes could be brought into the country would be the cargoes most useful to it. (Hear, hear.)

F.M.S. TRADE IN 1916.

The Chief Secretary of the Federated Malay States in his report for 1916 says:—

There was an increase of 16 per cent in the value of imports, the value being £20,191,113 (£2,125,463), as compared with £18,015,925 in 1915. There were substantial increases under most heads. The principal decreases were rice, coal, steel, manufactured metals, kachang oil, and railway and tramway material.

The value of exports was £219,943,656, an increase of £161,838,118 in 1915, or compared with £58,105,561 or 35 per cent increase of £4,140,130, and tin and tin ore an increase of £3,055,730.

The aggregate value of trade was £228,021,000, an increase of £88,248,723 compared with the trade of 1915, and nearly £100,000,000 compared with 1914. These figures include bullion. Excluding bullion, the total amount of trade in 1916—that is to say, imports and exports added together—was £228,564,799 (£23,792,569).

MENAGERIE IN A WEST-END FLAT. LIZARDS AND GUINEA PIGS IN THE BATH ROOM.

Mrs. Louisa Hecker, who kept a hotel in Park-lane, brought an action before Mr. Justice Bailhache and a common jury recently, in which she claimed £113 from Mr. George Lehman, an engineer, and Grace Lehman, his wife, as damages for injuries to a flat at Grosvenor Court Hotel, Davis-street, Berkeley-square. The defendants rented the flat in 1915 at five guineas a week.

Mr. Marshall Hall, K.C., said that the defendants turned the flat into a menagerie. They took into it dogs, cats, lizards, guinea pigs, ferrets, and doves and other birds. The place had to be fumigated when the defendants were induced to leave. Mrs. Lehman on one occasion cleared all the ornaments off the mantelpiece to fling at one of the attendants. She wrote many remarkable postcards. One of them read:—

"There is absolutely nothing damaged in the many, worn-out old flat—disgusting to dwell in. Ashamed of same, to invite their titled aristocratic friends, even to take a cup of tea. Going! Going! Gone! £5 to buy the job, lot in the flat."

A letter by Mrs. Lehman read:—

"Dear Dr. Jones—Mr. Lehman is panting like a steam engine with heart disease from the incessant letters from this boarding house hotel's friends. The colonel cannot have him made so excited. It is dreadful. His nerves must be rotten with smoking all day long. All his life. Do ask those who are tormenting the unfortunate American gentleman to leave him in peace. He is paying £10 weekly for a rotten old nigger-like shanty here—lizards, spiders, and cobwebs! Dickens's Little Dorrit sends compliments!"

Mrs. Marshall Hall went on to say that when the defendants left the flat it took four days to clear out the filth and the place was ruined.

Mrs. Hecker gave evidence. She said that on one occasion she saw Mrs. Lehman take the things from a tray at the door and fling them one after another down the passage at the head of the rapidly retreating waiter. As she sent each thing flying she uttered a series of yells. The furniture in the flat was almost new when the defendants went in, but with the lizards, the huge Welsh hound, and the rest it had been completely spoilt.

One day Mrs. Lehman came into the office wearing only an old ulster. She had nothing else on—not even stockings. She was yelling, "Oh, oh, I know who you are." She also used the most objectionable language to the maids. Her dressing-table, which had a wing mirror, was piled up with stale bread, toast, banana skins, butter, and fish. In the bath-room were kept lizards, guinea-pigs, and birds of every kind. Mrs. Lehman had thrown pats of butter at the pattern on the wall-paper. She did this for diversion, shouting with delight all the time. When a particularly loud yell was heard people said, "There! She has made a good shot." (Laughter.) The smell in the place was terrible.

At a later stage, Mr. R. J. Willis, who appeared for Mrs. Lehman, announced that he had agreed with counsel on the other side to settle the action against his client.

Mr. Lehman, who is deaf, was then told that Mrs. Hecker accused him of leaving the flat in a filthy state. He denied that he had done so.

An attendant at the hotel said that Mrs. Lehman threatened at him two collecting-boxes, an ash-tray, and all the things on the mantelpiece. It took four days to clean out the place when the defendants were gone.

The jury found a verdict against Mr. Lehman for £85, and judgment was entered accordingly, with costs.

RUSSIAN HEROINES RELEASE.

MARIE SPIRIDONOVA, MOST FAMOUS OF MODERN REVOLUTIONARIES.

Marie Spiridonova, whose sufferings as a martyr in the cause of Russian liberty are known the world over, was among a batch of released political prisoners who arrived at Chitra, says a Reuter message. She was given a great reception. A military band played, and she was carried shoulder-high by the crowd.

Russia was stirred some ten years ago by the case of this delicate, slender girl of 20, a school teacher, who shot dead Luchinsky, a brutal vice-governor who "pacified" a countryside by wholesale floggings, burnings and abominable outrages.

Marie waited for the tyrant on the platform of a station and fired five shots at him from her revolver, then tried to kill herself with the sixth. She was, however, knocked down, beaten, kicked, her legs, badly lacerated about by the hair and, later in prison, she was shamefully ill-treated by the officers who had charge of her.

She was sentenced to death, but in view of the facts brought to light at the trial of her martyrdom, the Government dared not carry out the sentence, and she was sent to Siberia.

Facing her judges with lofty calm, she told them in words that had a prophetic ring:—

"I do not fear death. You may kill my body, but you cannot kill my belief that the time of the people's happiness and freedom is surely coming—a time when the life of the people will expire itself in forms in which truth and justice will be realised—when the ideas of heroism and freedom will be no more empty sounds, but part of our every day real life. If this be truth, it is no grief to lay down one's life."

CUTLER PALMER & CO'S NAPIER JOHNSTONE'S



Known as the "OLD SQUARE" WHISKY. ESTABLISHED 1745.

SOLE AGENTS IN HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA: LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and from ALL WINE MERCHANTS.

GET RID OF PIMPLES



Quickly, Easily and Cheaply by Using Cuticura. The Soap to cleanse and purify, the Ointment to soothe and heal. Nothing better for all skin and scalp troubles.

Sample Each Free by Post. With 2-2-2. Cuticura. For samples address: Cuticura, 21, Farringdon Avenue, London, E.C.4.

BEETHAM'S La-rola

YOUR SKIN AND COMPLEXION can be kept in a Perfect Condition by the use of Beetham's La-rola. It effectively removes all roughness, restores the complexion to its natural beauty, and is a daily necessity for all who desire a clear, healthy skin.

M. BEETHAM & SON, CHELTENHAM, ENGLAND.

YOUR HAIR WILL LOOK BETTER

Rowland's Macassar Oil, which will preserve, nourish, and strengthen it, and as it penetrates to the roots will keep the hair from falling out, and will cause it to grow again. It is a most valuable and reliable preparation, and is a most effective remedy for all cases of weakness, nervousness, and general debility.

Rowland's Macassar Oil is a most valuable and reliable preparation, and is a most effective remedy for all cases of weakness, nervousness, and general debility. It is a most valuable and reliable preparation, and is a most effective remedy for all cases of weakness, nervousness, and general debility.

OLARKE'S B. 41 PILLS.

A warranted cure for all acquired or constitutional Discharges from the Urinary Organs in either sex. These famous Pills also cure Gravel, Pains in the Back and all Kidney Disorders. Free from mercury. Forty years' success. Sold by all Chemists and Storekeepers throughout the world.

THE NEW PERSONAL REMEDY THERAPION No. 1

Therapion No. 2, Therapion No. 3. These are the most valuable and reliable preparations, and are the most effective remedies for all cases of weakness, nervousness, and general debility. They are the most valuable and reliable preparations, and are the most effective remedies for all cases of weakness, nervousness, and general debility.

BATTLE OF ARRAS.
KEY OF THE SITUATION.[BY "THE DAILY TELEGRAPH" MILITARY
CORRESPONDENT.]

As further accounts of the great battle reach London, the first impressions of the "victory" fall short of its real magnitude. In twelve hours fighting the elaborately fortified lines of the Germans, stretching across the front of a whole British Army from the Vimy Ridge to Henin in the plain S.E. of Arras, were smashed up by artillery fire and stormed by our infantry. The feat was only possible because the preparation by artillery had been skilfully planned and methodically executed. Previous experiences of our other armies had demonstrated that a great concentration of guns with unlimited supply of ammunition are ineffective unless the fire of the artillery is directed by technicians who are capable of closely combining the efforts of the gunners with the advance of the infantry, and who thoroughly understand the nature of a contemporary battle.

The first onslaught in the type of battle which has become familiar to our troops since the trench warfare supervised and generally followed by setbacks and heavy losses. The British commander in the battle of Arras has obtained a far greater success in one day's fighting than any other leader of the Franco-British Forces since August, 1914, but his most serious difficulties will now begin. By sagacious arrangements and skilful directions the events of the first day's battle could be mainly forecast and secured, but, having advanced on to the fresh position snatched from the enemy, the counter-attacks of German infantry and artillery are to be expected while the initial advantages secured by preparation have either vanished or passed to the adversary for our troops have now penetrated into the zone which he has long occupied, prepared for defence in successive lines, and where the artillery ranges are re-estimated and known by him, while we have to find the ranges and counter-attack under his fire. Moreover, our young leaders and rapidly trained regiments are naturally at a disadvantage when called upon to manoeuvre against opposing troops which are well protected by the trenchments. For all these reasons the losses in later periods of these offensive operations usually exceed the losses sustained in the first day's rush, if it succeeds.

EFFECT IN GERMANY.

Kran, as matters stand, the stunning blow delivered by the British Commander has had far-reaching effects. In spite of all the efforts of the German censorship according to the news has widely penetrated through Germany. On the top of the general war weariness and the misery induced by want of every kind of commodity, and especially by the want of fuel and food, during the long months of this severe winter, the blow is a staggering surprise to the nation, which hitherto has believed that its army, at any rate, was invincible. The retreat from the Somme was more or less accepted as a device of the same nature as some of the Hindenburg retreats on the Russian frontier in the first winter of the war. But the capture of strongly fortified lines, the surrender of over 12,000 unwounded prisoners, and the loss of as many more from our steel and iron, constitutes a most disquieting argument for a people whose nerves are beginning to be tired.

The German Government proclaims that the submarine warfare is succeeding according to their calculations. The German people can only judge of this by the result. If our armies and the armies of our Allies continue to deal deadly blows at their time, and far from showing any inclination to economise their men and munitions, intensify the fury of their attack, the pessimists in the Fatherland, of whom there are now very many, not unnaturally conclude that submarines or no submarines, the British are able to keep their armies in the field and wear down the straitened forces of the German Empire.

THE DECIDING FACTOR.

Ships, money, policy have all been proclaimed to be the deciding factor in war. Innumerable eloquent writers have vaunted these indirect methods of conquering a hostile nation, and unquestionably each one of them plays a vital part in the great drama of war. There has been a tendency to disregard and neglect the direct influence of victory on the battlefield, which, after all, is the surest, as it is the quickest, means of bringing the foe to his knees. Especially is this the case in the British Empire, where military preparations were neglected for so many years before the war, and where skill in strategy and tactics were not held in honour. Indirect means, or the arms of our American Allies, may in the long run compel the Central Empires to accept our terms, but delay which means require to make themselves felt spell bitter loss of life to us, besides loss of ships and appalling expenditure of treasure.

A series of victories, like the battle of Arras, however, would solve the question far more satisfactorily, because far more swiftly. If each commander of an army, British and French, could win one such victory as crowned the efforts of the British commander in this battle, then the German host would be compelled to yield its grip on Northern France, and would be fortunate if it could rally for the Hindenburg line, or any other line west of the Rhine. Therefore, strategy, which is the skill of the commanding general, and tactics, which is principally the skill of his subordinate officers, are the most important assets of the army, and should be held in higher honour than heretofore. We have a chief who can inflict defeat on the strongest German army, and the leaders of the other British and of the French Armies will soon be emulating his fine feat of arms. Already the German report reveal the uneasiness with which their High Command views the French progress near Rheims, but, perhaps, surprise are also in store for them further afield.

THE MAKING OF A HUN.
SCHOOLBOYS TAUGHT TO BE
BULLIES.

The inculcation of the whole essence of the Prussian military spirit is the work of a lifetime, the lifetime of every Prussian boy. His tuition from the time he is ten is preparatory for a military life, and for the military point of view.

This is made clear in an article by Countess von Krockow in the New York Independent. The tutors of boys in country families are generally selected primarily for the "soundness of their views," which is to say, for their submissiveness to the views of the ruling caste. When the preparation at home comes to an end in the boy's fifteenth year, he goes to a college to be fitted for the university, or to a Government military school if his father can obtain a nomination from the Emperor on the strength of the family claims to recognition. Then the boy goes to the cadet school at Gross Lichterfelde, where he undergoes a physical examination, and if he is accepted his father has the satisfaction of knowing that the boy's education will be paid for by the tax-payers, and that at the end of his school time he will be in the profession that enjoys the most prestige throughout the empire.

He dons a uniform, and lessons fill every hour of his day, lessons from books and lessons from drill instructors. He lives in military surroundings, with disciplinary regulations minute and numberless. The principal visitors to the school are persons with shining helmets, flashing decorations, and swords.

CIVILIAN "DIRT."

From his instructors and the older boys he imbibes a sentiment of contempt for all men who have not the privilege of wearing uniform. His heroes among the boys are those who have seized opportunities to stand and affront such men. He curses a pet ambition, the chance of dressing down some civilian "dirt" like a railway guard for failing to salute him, or of snubbing brutally and drastically some clerk or professor daring to address him informally.

Later he will rise to the heights of speaking generally of the man in the ranks as "fellow," and individually as "numskull," "pig-dog," and "devil's churl." At the end of the course in the cadet school he enters the war school as a candidate for commission, and he passes out with the rank of second lieutenant and a handsome coat. He is a fully-fledged militarist.

Hardship is to be borne from earliest youth. Little boys of ten have to practise standing absolutely motionless for at least two hours at a time. At Court functions, the Countess says, the "sway lads," very picturesque in their page's costumes, swan away while standing thus motionless behind the chairs of royal princesses on whom they were in attendance. They have to stand all through the long Courts, State concerts, and other functions. If they faint they are carried away swiftly and noiselessly by lackeys who are on the look-out for such incidents, and another page takes the vacant place. "Meanwhile," continues Countess von Krockow, "the thing has been done: the souls of all youth have been saturated with the same class ideas and ideals. If they marry, these ideas and ideals find their identical, if softer, copy in the souls of their mates. A new family is created, and is put through the same stamping process; and so on from generation to generation."

WORSE THAN CRIME.

"Any variant from the type, any youth or girl whose spirit is resistant to the cast mould, is married into it; or, that resource failing, is perforce allowed to slip down to another social plane, while any man who liberates himself mentally, which is to say, becomes modern and democratic in his opinions, is ostracised."

Countess zu D— came visiting our family friends by herself. Of course, we can't receive her, poor creature. I heard the friends remark: "For a long time I asked no questions, talking for granted that a crime had been committed by the Count zu D—, whose estate, with its splendid old castle was among the great ones of the province. One day it occurred to me to inquire of my husband what the crime had been."

"What the heavens put it into your head that D— is a criminal?" he exclaimed. "Why, nobody seems to receive him; and the ladies are always expressing pity for the Countess. 'Well they may,' said he, sternly, 'for the Count is worse than a criminal. He is a Liberal!'"

"But he goes to the Golden Star in town," I persisted, after a moment of silence needed to recover from my surprise, and recalling that I had seen the Count alight at that weekly rendezvous of the country squirearchy.

"The Star, yes; a man can't be prohibited access to a public tavern. And some of the gentlemen there are wont to dispute and drink with him, and they are not the men, I can tell you, who are dependent on the grace of Berlin. What sort of a man is it, he went on in a tone of indignant reflexion, 'that will risk the future careers of his sons for the satisfaction of airing a batch of doctrines picked up travelling in England, the land of Parliamentary Government and hypocrisy!'"

"Such is the Prussian of noblest oblige."

"Golf, since it became so popular in England (says a Home paper), has been called by its enemies an old man's game. And an old man's game it is in these days. Young faces, even those of maidens, are seen no longer on the links; paddies have departed, greenkeepers are enlisted, and professionals are serving lunches in the club-house. Greens are cut by members themselves, motor-mowers, employed to save labour, send up and down the fairways, and new balls are few and far between. All this is good. Money has been shamefully squandered over golf, to the serious hurt of the game, and real lovers of the pastime will sincerely hope that the new order will be permanent."

THE SILENT NAVY.
SOME OF ITS GRIEVANCES.[BY J. J. M. HOOGE, M.P., THE WELL-KNOWN
AUTHORITY ON PENSIONS AND
ALLOWANCES.]

The Navy has done great deeds during the war even if we have not heard what they are. The "A.B." is numerically many fewer than Tommy. That may explain why we hear less about him. I confess myself one of the delinquents.

I have given much attention to the Army. It is time I said a little about the grievances of the Navy. These fall into three groups.

First, there are the grievances about Service pensions.

A man in the Navy is entitled to a pension when he has served 22 years. His pension is really deferred pay, but if he dies before his time has expired, neither his wife nor his next-of-kin gets a penny of this deferred pay. The widows and children of commissioned officers receive pensions. The widows of warrant officers also do, but their children do not. The widows and children of petty officers and men get nothing. The Lower Deck is not high enough to reach the Accountant-General of the Admiralty. Again, an officer wounded in action but not discharged receives a special pension. The ordinary sailor carries on without any.

There are 4,000 petty officers and men serving afloat who have completed 22 years' service. They are receiving 9d. a week in lieu of pension. They are entitled to annuities varying from £18 to £80. The Admiralty saves £10,000 annually by this expedient. In other words, they save it at the expense of the women and children. Men who had their pension and pension. The others watch them doing it.

A Metropolitan policeman when pensionable receives 10s. a week detained pay. The policeman of the North Sea gets 2d. a day. Despite Sir W. S. Gilbert, the policeman's life is somewhat happier than the man afloat.

Secondly, there are the grievances of separation allowances and hospital stoppages.

Separation allowances are paid on a lower rate in the Navy than in the Army. The alleged reason is the higher pay. Scarcely a sailor admits this, as he has to maintain his kit, whereas the Army kit is provided and maintained at public expense. We ought to have an official statement of explanation of the difference. The new scales, so far as they have been announced, certainly do not bring the separation allowance up to the sailor's wife in the lower ratings up to the level of the soldier's wife.

ECCENTRIC STOPPAGES.

There are other irritating differences. For example, the wife of a warrant officer, Royal Marines, receives 2s. a week; the wife of a warrant officer, R.N., gets 8s. Yet the warrant officer R.N. is senior to the Marine.

Hospital stoppages are very eccentric. Men and boys below the rank of warrant officer when sent to a home hospital have stopped out of their pay after 30 days:

- (1) In the case of men, 10d. a day if their pay is not less than 1s. 7d. a day, and 8d. if it is.
- (2) In the case of boys, 4d. a day.
- (3) In the case of Marines, 7d. a day.

If they remain in hospital 91 days their pay is entirely stopped. If then they return to civil life they must pay up arrears of Health Insurance to become entitled to benefit. The only exception to this practice is in the case of a man who receives what is known as a "Hurt Certificate."

So much for the Lower Deck. Officers, R.N., are not subjected to stoppages. A reserve or temporary officer is free for six weeks. The sailor does not object to this. He objects to the distinction. Moreover, he objects strongly to the fact that stoppages in his case reduce the allotment to his wife.

Thirdly, there are the grievances of promotions and awards. The sailor is our handy man. Resource is one of his distinguishing qualities. There must be many efficient men in the Navy, yet not a single petty officer and only seventeen warrant officers have been promoted to commissioned rank for war service. I would like to know whether this means that only this number have distinguished themselves at sea or whether the training units a man for promotion.

Again, in many of our merchant ships which have been armed and commissioned as H.M. ships a lieutenant, R.N.R., is gunnery officer. There is usually also a gunnery or chief gunner, R.N. The latter has served in the Navy from boyhood. The former has only been through a short gunnery course. The Lower Deck man is the man behind the gun. The other has the gold braid and the pay.

MEDALS AND MONEY.

Or take the lower ranks of the Accountants' Branch of the Navy—warrant writers and writers. Commissioned rank is not open to them. The war made necessary many additional accountant officers for the newly commissioned ships. Instead of promoting long-service, highly trained, and experienced men, the Admiralty entered civilians without examination. These civilians received rank over the heads of every naval writer and pay equal to twice that of a chief writer after sixteen years' service.

One thousand commissions in the Accountants' Branch have been given to outsiders, and to this day not one commission has been conferred on a writer, rank or ratings. This in spite of the fact that there are over 300 warrant and chief writers with from seventeen to thirty years' service on the recommended list.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

BONDS OF EMPIRE.
UNITY AND LIBERTY.

The freedom of the city of Edinburgh was conferred last month on Sir Robert L. Borden, the Prime Minister of Canada, Lieut. General Jan Christian Smuts, K.C. (Minister of Defence of the Union of South Africa), and Colonel his Highness Sir Gunga Singh Bahadur, G.C.I.E. (Maharaja of Bikaner). Each of the new freemen received the Burgess ticket in a casket, the Chief Magistrate acting as public orator in settling forth their claims to distinction.

Sir Robert Borden said he was glad indeed that the manhood of Canada was springing to arms in the great cause. Coming from ordinary avocations of life, without military experience or training, the Canadians had proved themselves more than a match for the enemy. They had shown themselves worthy to fight side by side with the men of the British Islands. They would agree with him that the entry of America was the last, and perhaps the most, convincing proof that the spirit of military aggression which seemed to have possessed Germany was inhuman and devilish, and must be cast out. (Cheers.) He hoped the Germans would realise that it was madness for any nation of the world to undertake, as they had undertaken, to revert to methods of pure barbarism, and to seek to impose upon the conscience of the world the creed of the jungle. But he had very great hope indeed that there would be a turning back and a reversion by Germany to the ordinary standards and purposes of civilisation as we had understood them, and to a more decent respect for the conventions of public law, of law between the nations, as they had been observed in the past. Our eyes were turned to the possibilities of Empire, and there were questions awaiting us of the gravest import—the production of an adequate food supply, means of transport and communication, and the utilisation of raw materials. We must take stock of all our resources, and he believed the destiny of our Empire would be largely worked out in our great Dominions. (Cheers.)

Lieut. General Smuts said the Union was inevitable in South Africa, and he had striven for years that it should be a union as between England and Scotland, and not the sort of union we had had between England and Ireland. (Cheers.) They had had in South Africa all the makings of an insoluble political problem, but, by God's providence, as that between England and Scotland had been achieved. "I have been reminded by the Lord Provost," continued General Smuts, "that I was fighting against the British Empire fifteen years ago. Ladies and gentlemen, there has been no change in me. (Cheers and laughter.) The cause I fought for fifteen years ago is the cause for which I am fighting to-day. (More cheers.) I fought for freedom and liberty then, and I am fighting for it now. You are a large-hearted people, and you will forgive me for an expression of my view that fifteen or eighteen years ago you were wrong. (Much laughter.) I am sometimes proud to think that since then we have, according to old apostolic injunction, heaped coals of fire on your heads. You came back to wiser counsels in handing back to us the liberty which we had thought would be jeopardised under the British flag. You made us free, and in that way you laid the foundations of a large State. (Loud cheers.) Touching on a visit to the front, General Smuts said that, apart from the line of our mind, our organisation left nothing to be desired. The German organisation had been overtaken, and notwithstanding the heaviest bombardment in the world's history, he found in the evening that the amount of our shells had actually increased.

When the Maharaja of Bikaner signed the roll the great assemblage rose and cheered lustily. His Highness said all the countries of the Empire were of one mind in their resolve to prosecute this war with all the energy and determination at their command for the freedom of the world, the right of nations to live their own lives, and for the overthrow of militarism and aggression. (Cheers.) Whatever political and economic decisions might be arrived at by the present Imperial gathering, he was convinced that one result would be the permanent strengthening of the ties of the Empire.

Look now at Interpreters. Naval and Marine officers who qualify get gratuities ranging from £25 to £200 and 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. a day extra pay on appointment. Men are not eligible. One would have thought that the war would have removed the embargo, for there are many linguists among the men.

Finally, consider the award of the Medal for Conspicuous Gallantry. It ranks next to the Victoria Cross, and is awarded to petty officers and seamen, R.N., and to non-commissioned officers and privates of the Royal Marines. Attached to the distinction is an annuity not exceeding £20, but the money award is confined to chief petty officers and petty officers of the Navy and sergeants of the Royal Marines. That is to say, men may win the medal but are not eligible for the annuity.

Of the fifty-two awards since war broke out twenty-four have been won by men ineligible for the money award. The above is an abbreviated catalogue of some of the grievances of the Lower Deck. Dr. Macnamara has described My Lords of the Admiralty as the Little Fathers of the Fleet. I am not quite sure whether it ought to be Little or Little. There is a wide enough gulf fixed between the Upper and the Lower Deck to suggest that he really meant to leave it open.—Daily Mail.

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The above is an abbreviated catalogue of some of the grievances of the Lower Deck. Dr. Macnamara has described My Lords of the Admiralty as the Little Fathers of the Fleet. I am not quite sure whether it ought to be Little or Little. There is a wide enough gulf fixed between the Upper and the Lower Deck to suggest that he really meant to leave it open.—Daily Mail.

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